

[7 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

s No	Service Area (Metro City/Telecom Circle)	Name of Operator
20.	UP(W)	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd.* Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
21.	UP(E)	Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.
22.	West Bengal	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

Legend: * These licences stand terminated for default in payment of licence fee dues.

Note: Expansion or fresh start of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is not permitted at present by Private Operators as well as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in J&K, North East and Assam Telecom Circles on security consideration.

Privatisation of basic Telephone Services

1746. SHRI AN ANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise the basic telephone services of 40 circles in different States;

(b) if so, what are those 40 circles;

(c) whether the basic services of these circles are going to be handed over to private sector on lease basis;

(d) if so, for how many years; and

(e) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Government propose to grant licence to private basic telephone service operators in 21 circles in different States. The details of 21 circles are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The licence will be granted as per the guidelines announced on 25th January, 2001 on fulfilling entry conditions such as payment of entry fee,

submission of performance bank guarantee for roll out obligations and payment of prescribed fees as a percentage share of revenue for a period of 20 years.

Statement

Telecom Circles and the areas covered by them for the purpose of basic Telephone Service Licence

S.No.	Name of Circle	Areas covered
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	Entire area falling within the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Island.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Entire area falling within the State of Andhra Pradesh.
3.	Assam	Entire area falling within the State of Assam.
4.	Bihar	Entire area falling within the reorganised State of Bihar and newly created State of Jharkhand pursuant to the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 (No. 30 of 2000) dated 25th August, 2000.
5.	Delhi MTNL	Entire area of Delhi Telephone System.
6.	Gujarat	Entire area falling within the State of Gujarat and Union Territory of Daman and Diu, Silvassa (Dadra & Nagar Haveli).
7.	Haryana	Entire area falling within the State of Haryana.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Entire area falling within the State of Himachal Pradesh.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Entire area falling within the State of Jammu & Kashmir including the autonomous Council of Ladakh.
10.	Karnataka	Entire area falling within the State of Karnataka.

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S.No. Name of Circle	Areas covered
11. Kerala	Entire area falling within the State of Kerala and Union Territory of Lakshadweep and Minicoy.
12. Madhya Pradesh	Entire area falling within the reorganised State of Madhya Pradesh as well as the newly created State of Chhattisgarh pursuant to the Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 (No. 28 of 2000) dated 25th August, 2000.
13. Maharashtra	Entire area falling within the State of Maharashtra and Union Territory of Goa, including areas covered by MTNL Mumbai.
14. North-East	Entire area falling within the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura.
15. Orissa	Entire area falling within the State of Orissa.
16. Punjab	Entire area falling within the State of Punjab and Union Territory of Chandigarh.
17. Rajasthan	Entire area falling within the State of Rajasthan.
18. Tamil Nadu	Entire area falling within the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry including the areas covered by Madras Telephone System.
19. Uttar Pradesh West	Entire area covered by Western Uttar Pradesh with the following as its boundary districts towards Eastern Uttar Pradesh: Pilibhit, Bareilly, Badaun, Etah, Mainpuri and Etawah. It will also include the newly created State of Uttaranchal pursuant to the

S.No.	Name of Circle	Areas covered
		Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 (No. 29 of 2000) dated 25th August, 2000.
20.	Uttar Pradesh East	Entire area covered by Eastern Uttar Pradesh with the following as its boundary districts towards Western Uttar Pradesh Shahjahanpur, Farrukhabad, Kanpur and Jalaun.
21.	West Bengal	Entire area falling within the State of West Bengal and the State of Sikkim including the areas covered by Kolkata Telephone System.

Illegal operations by SBI's Overseas Branch in Ahmedabad

1747. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India lost more than Rs. 80 crores in the bullion scam due to illegal operations made by the bank's overseas branch in Ahmedabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that the bank handed over gold to private parties without receiving payment for the same; and

(c) the action taken by Government against the erring officers who contravened all banking norms and allowed to keep gold stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B ALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that its overseas branch at Ahmedabad had been delivering gold to its customers against payment orders/cheques issued by banks, treating those on par with cash. The Bank is reported to have suffered losses of Rs. 39.7 crores in this business due to dishonour of pay orders issued by Classic Co-operative bank Ltd., Ahmedabad.

(c) SBI has reported that it has completed investigations from the staff accountability angle and initiated disciplinary proceedings after consultations with the Central Vigilance Commission. The Bank has further reported that it has